

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00602 071429Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 071405Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4885
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, VT, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK-VATICAN RELATIONS

REFS A. ROME 3839, B. PRAGUE 0080

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

1. FRANTISEK CARDINAL TOMASEK TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA MARCH 6, THEREBY FULFILLING LEGAL CONDITION FOR HIS ASSUMPTION OF PRAGUE ARCHBISHOPRIC, ALREADY AGREED UPON IN CZECHOSLOVAK-VATICAN TALKS (REF B). ACCORDING TO PARTY DAILY RUDE PRAVO MARCH 7, THE NEW ARCHBISHOP ASSURED CZECH MINISTER OF CULTURE KLUSAK OF THE "STRAIGHTFORWARD INTEREST OF THE CHURCH AND BELIEVERS IN PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THE BUILDING OF A DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY."
2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE TOMASEK PLANS TRIP TO ROME BEGINNING ABOUT MARCH TEN FOR ONE WEEK. WHILE THERE HE WILL DISCUSS APRIL VISIT TO PRAGUE BY VATICAN DELEGATION (REF A). MONSIGNOR LUIGI POGGI, RATHER THAN ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, IS NOW EXPECTED TO LEAD THE DELEGATION IN VIEW OF WHAT THE VATICAN SEES AS CZECHOSLOVAK STALLING ON BILATERAL

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ISSUES AND SLOWNESS TO AMELIORATE CONDITIONS FOR THE CHURCH INTERNALLY. WE UNDERSTAND VISIT MAY NOW BE SET FOR LATE RATHER THAN EARLY APRIL.
DECONTROLLED AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
FROWICK

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Message Attributes

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